

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-component electronic device which comprises:

a) a display component, comprising a housing having an exterior surface;

5 a microprocessor within the housing; a data memory within the housing,  
which data memory is electrically coupled to the microprocessor; a data  
display on the external surface of the housing, which data display is  
electrically coupled to the microprocessor and the data memory; and a  
first electrical connector coupled to the microprocessor, the data memory  
10 and the data display; and

b) an input component, comprising a cartridge having an outer surface, a  
data input element on the outer surface of the cartridge; and a

communications interface within the cartridge; wherein the cartridge  
comprises a second electrical connector which is matedly and removably

15 attachable to the display component via the first electrical connector such  
that when the first electrical connector is attached to the second electrical  
connector, both the data input element and the communications interface  
are electrically connected to the microprocessor, and wherein the data  
input element is capable of inputting data into the microprocessor and the  
20 communications interface is capable of transmitting data between the  
microprocessor and a telecommunications network.

2. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the first connector comprises a data port.

5 3. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the second connector comprises a data port.

4. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the data input element comprises a keypad.

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5. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the data input element comprises a touch screen.

6. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the data display comprises a  
15 liquid crystal display or a light emitting diode display.

7. The electronic device of claim 1 which comprises a hand held electronic data organizer.

20 8. The multi-component electronic device of claim 1 wherein the communications interface comprises a modem.

9. A data input device comprising a cartridge having an outer surface, a data input element on the outer surface of the cartridge; and a communications interface within the cartridge; wherein the cartridge
- 5 comprises a second electrical connector which is matedly and removably attachable to a first electrical connector of a hand held electronic data organizer such that when the data input device is attached to the hand held electronic data organizer, both the data input element and the communications interface are electrically connected to a microprocessor
- 10 of the hand held electronic data organizer, and wherein the data input element is capable of inputting data into the microprocessor and the communications interface is capable of transmitting data between the microprocessor and a telecommunications network.
- 15 10. The data input device of claim 9 wherein the first connector comprises a data port.
11. The data input device of claim 9 wherein the second connector comprises a data port.

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12. The data input device of claim 9 wherein the data input element comprises a keypad.

13. The data input device of claim 9 wherein the data input element  
5 comprises a touch screen.

14. The data input device of claim 9 wherein the communications interface comprises a modem.

10 15. A method for processing data which comprises:

l) providing a multi-component electronic device which comprises:

a) a display component, comprising a housing having an exterior  
surface; a microprocessor within the housing; a data memory within  
the housing, which data memory is electrically coupled to the  
15 microprocessor; a data display on the external surface of the  
housing, which data display is electrically coupled to the  
microprocessor and the data memory; and a first electrical  
connector coupled to the microprocessor, the data memory and the  
data display; and  
20 b) an input component, comprising a cartridge having an outer  
surface, a data input element on the outer surface of the cartridge;

and a communications interface within the cartridge; wherein the cartridge comprises a second electrical connector which is matedly and removably attachable to the display component via the first electrical connector such that when the first electrical connector is attached to the second electrical connector, both the data input element and the communications interface are electrically connected to the microprocessor, and wherein the data input element is capable of inputting data into the microprocessor and the communications interface is capable of transmitting data between the microprocessor and a telecommunications network;

II) inputting data and function commands into the microprocessor of the display component via the data input element of the removable input component;

III) processing the entered data via the microprocessor; and

IV) displaying the processed data via the data display.

16. The method of claim 15 which further comprises transmitting data between the microprocessor and a telecommunications network via the communications interface.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the first connector comprises a data port.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the second connector comprises a  
5 data port.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the data input element comprises a keypad.

10 20. The method of claim 15 wherein the data input element comprises a touch screen.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein the data display comprises a liquid crystal display or a light emitting diode display.

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22. The method of claim 15 wherein the multi-component electronic device comprises a hand held electronic data organizer.

23. The method of claim 15 wherein the communications interface  
20 comprises a modem.